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FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 1916.

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE NEWS-PAPERS

More figures about the number of foreign-born citizens of this country do not show much. They cannot indicate how many of these residents still cling to Old World customs and tongues, or how many have developed into fine, upstanding Americans.

But more illuminating is a report of the American Association of Foreign Language Newspapers, incorporated in New York, made up of 761 newspapers, printed in twenty-eight different languages. A few of these members are in Canada, but most of them are in this country.

Nor does this body include newspapers printed in German, for they flock by themselves in an organization of their own. Some of the tabulation is surprising. It makes one think, for example, to know that 153 flourishing publications are printed in Italian, nine in Japanese, and that such little known tongues as the Lithuanian, the Lithuanian, and the Slovenian are represented.

Investments in these papers, it is estimated, aggregate \$37,000,000, and these papers spend about \$14,000,000 a year for paper and other supplies. These figures are illuminating in showing the influence these papers wield.

## THERE ARE NO NEUTRALS LEFT

So far as concerns the effects of the war on the peoples of the world, it may fairly be said there are no neutrals left. It reaches to all continents, climes, governments, peoples.

The other day the Peruvian diplomatic representation in Washington was withdrawn because Peru could not afford to maintain it. Switzerland is in a condition of economic depression that, not being offset by the feverish activity that war inspires, is in many ways worse than the condition of the warring nations.

Spain has commandeered supplies of wheat in the government's name, in order to establish control and prevent undue inflation of prices. Portugal has been drawn into the war, Greece might better be in it, Roumania is reported suffering in many ways. Brazil comes forward with a reminder that Germany owes her \$25,000,000 for coffee and that not a mark of it can be collected; it is seriously proposed to seize the interned German ships in Brazilian ports. No country is safe, untroubled, or confident. The war drags its way along, and the greatest of its horrors is now being enacted around Verdun, with no greater result in prospect than a wearing down of both sides.

We were told at the beginning that a few months would measure its span, because exhaustion would overtake the fighting nations. More likely, it appears now, it will first overtaken the nations that are not at war.

## BERLIN'S PLEA OF GUILTY

Secretary Lansing's course is made very plain by the confession to us of the Berlin foreign office. In its resumed argument on the new doctrine of armed merchantmen Berlin does not plead innocence; Berlin acknowledges guilt, but puts in a plea of mitigating circumstances because of incited crime.

This is so because when Berlin declares that the German submarines will abandon lawlessness if Great Britain will abandon lawlessness, Berlin, admitting the German wrong, throws up the whole German case so far as concerns the United States.

Grant, for the sake of argument, that Great Britain is violating against German rights any law or all laws. What has that to do with our rights? Absolutely nothing.

If there is a burglar at large that fact does not justify another man in declaring that he must have the right to be an unhindered burglar as long as the other one is loose. If a cattle thief is driving off the live stock of one particular man, he cannot set up the claim that this wrong against him gives him license to drive off the cattle of a third man.

What Great Britain does to Germany or what Germany does to Great Britain, if nobody else is made to suffer, is a matter between Great Britain and Germany. They may settle it between themselves. But what Germany does to the United States because of a grievance against Great Britain or what Great Britain does to the United States because of a grievance against Germany is a separate and distinct issue. Neither of them can settle a thing like that with anybody but the United States.

Because the German burglar is in the British house or the British burglar is in the German house, we should not invite either the one or the other to break into the American house.

American right: are American

rights whatever Great Britain may be doing to Germany. American rights are American rights whatever Germany may be doing to Great Britain. That is the answer which Secretary Lansing has to make to the Berlin plea of justification delivered through Ambassador Bernstorff. That is the answer which he will have to make to any other foreign government which proposes to us that if somebody kicks it on the shins it must be permitted, by way of reprisal, to kick us in the face. It is the answer which the United States Government and the American people will have to make as long as they keep the Stars and Stripes flying.

## THE ROOSEVELT STATEMENT

Colonel Roosevelt's thoroughly characteristic statement, issued from Port of Spain, Trinidad, will be subjected to various interpretations, as men may wish to read differing meanings into it. But in fact its real meaning to the American nation is not hard to understand.

More and more, day by day, the country is looking to Roosevelt as the one man competent to provide it the right leadership in the present juncture. There can be no doubt of this; it is the testimony of all parties, sections, factions; of admirers and detractors, of friends and enemies alike.

Colonel Roosevelt does not intend to be the nominee of a faction merely. He doesn't want to be the President of a part of this country. He thinks the country needs a leadership that can draw it together in a noble unity of idealistic purpose, and hold it in that unity. He warns it that if it shall submit to his leadership it will have need for a mood with "something of the heroic" in it. No need to conjecture what he means by that. He means that he believes he shall submit to his leadership it needs; he is not willing to try to lead unless assured that the country will follow. If he is to be President, then, he demands that he be made President on terms that will square and unqualifiedly commit the nation to the policy of vigor and action for which he would stand.

Who can survey the developments that have marked recent months in the world's experience, and doubt that this country is drawing nearer and nearer a crisis in which it will need all the experience, skill, devotion, and vigor that can be commanded for its leadership? But yesterday the thirteenth nation was formally dragged into the war; and on that very same day our relations with Mexico reached the most critical point since the downfall of Diaz. This present week has seen the exposure of another alien plot to control this country from within, by manipulation of its politics and legislation in the interest of a foreign power. Turn where one may, it needs only clear vision and intellectual honesty to see and understand that the country is drifting, not navigating its craft under power and firm guidance. How long and how far may the ship of state thus drift without disaster?

There is no other man whose method of dealing with such a crisis can be so nearly guessed by the nation as that of Theodore Roosevelt. Details, methods, steps in the procedure, we need not conjecture; but of one thing everybody can be certain: that if Roosevelt were President in such a time there would be no danger of sacrificing the national self-respect, the national interests, the national ideals. There would be strength instead of weakness, vigor instead of vacillation, fixed ideals instead of shifting expediency. If the country wants these things, it knows it can get them with Roosevelt leadership. Colonel Roosevelt has made plain that he does not want to serve unless the country wants his kind of service.

Every hour is bringing the national mind nearer to acceptance of that service, with full understanding of what it means.

## FICTION IN THE LIBRARIES

Every now and then some library lays stress on the fact that its fiction circulation has fallen off, while non-fiction works have grown more popular. It seems to be taken for granted that he who runs should know why such a consummation is to be wished for.

It is refreshing to note that the New Jersey Library Association has gone on record as favoring a prominent place for novels on library shelves. In most libraries fiction is kept carefully concealed, and has to be sought for, while non-fiction slaps one in the face as he enters the library. Other wily schemes to inveigle the public to read anything but fiction are devised, such as permitting two non-fiction books to one novel, and placing a tariff on the new novels.

In the face of this we hear the librarians decrying the fact that the "movies" have diverted children from books to motion pictures. We hear them demanding that better support be given to fiction writers of the first rank.

The only way to form a taste for

good fiction, to the layman's mind, is to read fiction. The reader who abstains from the current output of fiction is missing some of the most progressive thought in economic, sociological, and religious lines. Just now fiction contains a higher by-product of philosophy than ever before. Romantic fiction, which reached its height only a decade ago, has been superseded by novels about things that concern the most important human relations.

It is gratifying to see libraries trying to afford budding engineers, mechanics, farmers, and architects all the literature they can collect and catalogue on these subjects. But, after all, libraries are not vocational schools entirely, and can well afford to foster the love for good fiction. The effort of librarians to dictate what the public shall read has not influenced the public much, and has hurt the libraries a great deal.

## AFTER VILLA, ACTION

Villa led or sent his bandits across our boundary to shoot up an American town with a single purpose. It was to draw our troops over the border and create a situation in which we should be compelled to intervene, arousing the Mexican people to Villa's cause. We need not play his game for him; but we do need to get him and his kind hanged for the outlaws they are.

Carranza cannot do the job. Law and order in Mexico cannot depend upon the weak and helpless Carranza. So we must do something. We cannot permit Mexican bandits in the train of Villa or of anybody else to murder our men and women on our own soil—and if we don't do something there will be more of these raids, with greater slaughter of our people.

There are two things we can do. We can tell Carranza that we will assist him to run down all the outlaws that are near enough the American line to make trouble on our territory. We can tell him that if he invites us to assist him we will do so in behalf of his government and in the name of his authority, but that if he does not invite us, we shall assist him, nevertheless, to that very end.

We can tell him this with friendly but firm assurance that we mean to get action immediately. Then, with or without his invitation, we can act. The United States Government would better begin now.

## CHILDREN AND THE STAGE

Efforts to "uplift" the stage usually are ludicrous or futile. The theater now, as always, is a place for amusement and recreation. Efforts to usurp this purpose, and make it a place for preachers, for historical study, or for anything else than its normal function, are apt to fail.

Those who would improve the form of recreation offered are beginning to start at the right end, with the patrons and not those who run the theaters. The most sane experiment in that direction is being worked out in Columbus, Ohio, by a newspaper man, J. Clarence Sullivan, and in a lesser way in many cities.

Mr. Sullivan's effort centers about a children's playhouse. There children are taught a love of the stage and a knowledge of the best in its offerings, by being allowed to act in plays of their own choosing. Older folks are encouraged to write plays in which the children act.

Unlike other experiments of the sort, the best of the youthful actors are not picked and gradually allowed to be the "whole show." The plays are given for the enjoyment of the children, and the largest number of children possible are encouraged to take part. Often a number of casts are trained for the same play, to give every child a chance. Thus these children gain a love for, and knowledge of, the stage which will make them supporters of the best in drama when they grow older.

The method employed in Columbus is suggestive of a change in the literary, debating, and intellectual activities of schools similar to that which has come over athletics. Instead of picking a few bright children to be in its theatricals, and a few bright pupils to be in its debates, and a few bright pupils to get out a school paper, the way in which all pupils may be made to serve and benefit in these fields, is found by the Columbus experiment.

The United States will now declare neutrality in the Germany-Portugal situation, without meaning any more than it has in similar decrees, thirteen times heretofore.

Secretary Baker was on the war job just two minutes when he found that the mayorality of Cleveland wasn't such a tough proposition after all.

If Henry Ford will find some way to use gunpowder to run a jitney he may get the boys out of the trenches before next Christmas.

Having faced a suffrage delegation, Mr. Bowdler wasn't perturbed to look into the little end of two ordinary revolvers.

## BOARD OF TRADE CONSIDERS

Views Borland Amendment With Apprehension, Fearing Business Disturbances.

The Board of Trade has gone on record as opposed to the Borland amendment to the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill, introduced in the working day of Government clerks in the District to eight hours.

The unanimous vote of more than 600 of its members at the board at a meeting last night at the Willard adopted on recommendation of its executive committee the following resolution: "Resolved, That the executive committee of the Board of Trade views with considerable apprehension the rider to the appropriation bill increasing the hours of labor of Government employees in the District of Columbia, and believes that any gain due to the increased hours would be more than offset by the general disturbance to the business of the District, including those of transportation in this District and those made by private employers, and by the loss of time heretofore enacted by the Congress.

Calls Rider a Joker.

In presenting the resolution for the executive committee, William G. Henderson declared: "This is a subject in which not only every member of the Board of Trade, but every citizen of the District and every citizen of the nation as well, is deeply concerned."

Congressman Frank W. Mondell of Wyoming is expected to make the point of order against the Borland rider when it comes up for consideration in the House, and the members of the Board of Trade are expected to make a similar point of order in the Senate.

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Would Clear Up Avenue.

"I have always voted for what would further the beautification of Washington," said Mr. Mondell, "and I want to see Pennsylvania avenue cleared up; all the shacks along it torn down, and both sides of the thoroughfare lined with beautiful buildings that will stand as monuments to the dignity of the nation."

Touching on the question of the power plant, the speaker said: "If our city is capable of utilizing the great water power at Great Falls so that it might become a new inspiration to the people, why not have it?"

The story pulsates with action and excitement, and is a new departure in the history of the All-Story Weekly.

A new author to All-Story Weekly readers is introduced in the story of "The Iron-Rider," which is a new departure in the history of the All-Story Weekly.

A vivid story of the Southwest is Jeanne Harris Oliver's contribution, and it is a new departure in the history of the All-Story Weekly.

The usual high standard in short stories and verse is again in this week's "All-Story Weekly."

To Discuss Wider Use Of the School Building

Prof. Edward J. Ward, of the United States Bureau of Education, will be the principal speaker at the meeting of the National Association of School Administrators, which will be held at the Eastern High School at the school building at 8 o'clock tonight.

The meeting will be held in the W. C. T. U. hall, 122 Sixth street northwest, Monday night at 8 o'clock.

A piano duet will be given by Messrs. Keyser and Whitaker.

Lectures on Work of Interior Department

Stephen T. Mather, assistant secretary, lectured on the work of the Interior Department last night before a meeting of the National League of Government Employees, at Masonic Temple, Anacostia.

Canadian Fisheries.

Congress General Evan E. Young, of Halifax, Nova Scotia, reports that the sea fisheries of the eastern coast of Canada are being investigated for the purpose of determining the extent of the (Dr. H. H.) of the Norwegian fisheries service.

## Capital Couple's Niece Sings at Metropolitan

Unusual Achievement of Ruth Townsend, Still in First Year of Her Appearance in New York, Attracts Attention.

For a young singer to be heard in the Metropolitan Opera House the year of her New York debut is an unusual mark of success. That is what has happened in the career of Ruth Townsend, contralto, the niece of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence, who sang at the Metropolitan on February 27, at which Harold Bauer was the artist and Mabel Garrison, soprano of the Metropolitan, was also heard. Miss Townsend received much praise.

Her offerings included two arias with orchestra, the "Amour viens aider" from "Samson and Dalila" and the "Voe di Donna" from "La Cloconda," for which she received several recalls. Musical America said of her: "Miss Townsend has a voice of much sweetness and her interpretations showed that she had been admirably schooled. She added the 'Brindisi' from 'Lucetta Borgia,' admirably sung."

An artist with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, Miss Townsend will start April 1 on a two months' tour, going as far West as Omaha.

Driving An Ambulance.

Mrs. A. M. Blair, our well-known choral director, writes from Torquay, England, that her son Percy is at the front in France, driving a motor ambulance for the wounded. Mrs. Blair, too, is devoting her time and strength to giving what aid she can in the service of humanity.

She returns soon to her lovely, ivy-grown home "Edinburg," near Canterbury, there to continue her war work through the little sewing class she organized there.

Mrs. Blair writes with deep feeling: "Oh, to write 'finis' over the appalling world struggle. The earth seems to have stood still since its soil became bloodstained."

Her return to Washington next fall still seems to be probable, but is not definitely decided.

The most talked about musical production of the day is the performance in Philadelphia of the Buhler Elgar Symphony by the Philadelphia Orchestra under the baton of Leopold Stokowski, with a chorus of 1,000 voices. Such a huge achievement, of the kind which upon Conductor Stokowski for, it seems, New York failed to avail itself of the opportunity of seeing the vast city hear such great magnitude, and so it came about that its critics and the musical world had to journey to the

PHOTOGRAPHS ON THE COURT ASKS PUBLIC PROGRAM NEXT WEEK TO FIX BOY'S FUTURE

Varied Assortment of Film Features to Be Offered Local Theater Patrons.

"The Innocence of Ruth," a Klein-Edition photoplay, heads next week's attractions at the Capitol Theatre, scheduled for showing on Sunday.

Viola Dana and Edward Earle are the featured players in this production. The story is the story of an orphan girl, raised luxuriously by a young millionaire in whose charge she was placed by her father, just before his death.

Monday and Tuesday, Holbrook Blinn and Lila May Chester will be seen in the picture "The Girl Who Came to Stay," a story of a man's love for a woman who has been abandoned by her father.

Wednesday and Thursday, Constance Collier will be seen in "Tongues of Men," a pretty picture of a man's love for a woman who has been abandoned by her father.

Friday and Saturday, Anna Held will be seen in "The Girl Who Came to Stay," a story of a man's love for a woman who has been abandoned by her father.

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Leaders Unanimous in Opinion That Colonel's "Hat is in the Ring."

COUNTRY MUST CALL HIM Mistake to Nominate Him Unless Country Wants to Do "Something Heroic."

NEW YORK, March 10.—Col. Theodore Roosevelt's message from Trinidad, British West Indies, is received by politicians of all parties as a formal warning that the Colonel's "hat is in the ring." The opinion was unanimous that the Colonel had executed the nearest political move yet made in the race for the Republican nomination, and the Colonel's supporters enthusiastically hailed the message as a call to arms.

The Colonel, his friends say, now has put himself in a fighting position. Justice Charles E. Hughes, the impression that the Colonel was eager for the nomination, and, in fact, was ready to go to any lengths to achieve this ambition has been dispelled, his followers believe, by the Colonel's assertion that "he will not run for the office unless the country does not fail to note that in the next breath and, in fact, in almost every line of the statement the Colonel does his best to pound home the impression that he, and he only, is capable of handling the 'great responsibility' that is before the people.

Colonel's First Thrust.

Especially did one paragraph of the message appeal to keen observers. The Colonel states flatly that he will not fight for the nomination, and then qualifies this by saying that unless the country wants to do "something heroic" it would be a mistake to nominate him. He compares the present situation with the questions that confronted Washington and Lincoln and then drove home this subtle suggestion:

"It is for us to grapple with the tremendous national and international problems of our own hour in the spirit and with the ability shown by those who upheld the hands of Washington and Lincoln. Whether we do or do not accomplish this feat will largely depend on the action taken at the Republican and Progressive national conventions next June."

"This is the Colonel's first big gun, and it struck home," said a prominent political leader yesterday. "His determination to keep out of the primary fights in the various States is a good politics. He admits that he does not want to stir up any factional fights in the Republican and Progressive parties, knowing that if this should occur it would divide his strength. But just the same, his agents are on the ground, and are overlooking no opportunity that will be useful on June 7 in Chicago."

For Americanism.

The Colonel, it was observed, interjected in his message his own pet issue—the issue on which he will depend most to turn the delegates to his standard—"Americanism." He called only delegates who stand for "clean-cut, straight-out national Americanism" be sent to the national convention, and regarded as such clever touch and an appeal to the voters.

In the meantime, Senators Cummins of Idaho, Taft of Ohio, and Charles W. Fairbanks of Indiana, are corraling Republican delegates from nearly every Middle Western State. Theodore E. Burton, of Ohio, is busy in several Eastern States, while friends of Governor McCall of Massachusetts, are making claims of progress.

There is a long chance that one of these candidates may come in first under the wings of a chance-leader say. While they race merrily on, Justice Hughes, silent but watchful, and Colonel Roosevelt, now also in the race, are waiting for the moment when they can strike, say the wisecracks. The Colonel and Justice Hughes are regarded as the principals in the main bout, and the numerous "favorite son" candidates who will enter the convention arena in the "preliminaries" are calculated and to provide appetite for the main bout of the program.

COMING EVENTS ON CAPITAL'S PROGRAM

Today's Amusements—Schedule for Tomorrow.

Today.

Illustrated Address, "Spain," Mrs. Harriet Chalmers Adams, before National Geographic Society, New Masonic Temple, 4:45 and 8:15 p. m.

Lecture, "Life Saving and Rescue Work in Our Mines," by Albert M. Fay, Hamilton M. E. Church, 8 p. m.

Recital, "Eris Kreier, New National, 4:30 p. m.

Address, "The Development of the Movement for the Wider Use of the School Plant," by E. J. Taylor, Jr., Eastern High School, 8 p. m.

Concert, "Brooklyn Citizens' Association, 8:15 p. m.

Debate, University of Pittsburgh and George Washington University, auditorium Public Library, 8 p. m.

Exhibition of photographs of Grand Canyon and other scenes, H. T. Cowling, before meeting of Federal Geographic Society, 8:15 p. m.

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